



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA • DECEMBER 19, 2022

Regular Meeting

Sullivan Chamber 5:30 PM

Cambridge City Hall, 795 Massachusetts Ave, Cambridge, MA 02139

I. CITY MANAGER'S AGENDA

1. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to a public health update.
CMA 2022 #242

Testing Update: Beginning in January, the CIC testing site in Kendall Square will no longer provide free PCR testing for residents and City staff 7 days a week. The Cambridge Public Health Department is looking into other testing site options to fill the void in the meantime and will update the City's COVID homepage as needed. The City does have 60,000 free rapid tests to distribute and will be looking into pickup sites for those tests. Director of Public Health Derrick Neal also reminded folks that free rapid tests are available at pharmacies in places such as CVS, Walgreens, and Target each month. For more information on testing, check the City's [COVID homepage](#).

Vaccine Update: So far, 78% of Cambridge residents are fully vaccinated against COVID-19. 98% of Cambridge residents have received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine, which is higher than many large cities in the State, and these percentages continue to rise. Additionally, over 50% of Cambridge residents have received their boosters. At the last Council meeting, I along with the Mayor introduced a policy order requesting a COVID19 vaccine clinic that would provide \$75 gift cards for those who received a booster or initial shot. In just two weeks, the CPHD, Fire Department, and City Manager's office was able to pull together a highly successful and well-attended clinic this past Thursday, December 15 at the Galleria Mall where over 1,000 COVID19 and flu shots were administered – over 800 of them COVID19 second doses or boosters. I want to thank our dedicated City staff and volunteers for their work to make this clinic possible and increase the City's protection against infection this holiday season. Director Neal shared that a survey was sent out to those who attended, and the Health Department will be using the data collected to help inform them of the need for other vaccine clinics.

If you still need a booster or other vaccine, you can still get one at another location. To schedule a vaccine appointment, click [here](#).

For more information on upcoming vaccine clinics, check back [here](#).

Public Health Update: The 7-day (December 5 – December 19) moving average in Cambridge is [15 confirmed cases per day per 100,000](#) people and the test positivity rate currently sits at 5.84% for the two-week period ending on September 12. Director Neal reiterated to the Council that the

focus now is on masking and monitoring. He advised those to be vigilant ahead of holiday gatherings: test before you go, and stay home even if your results are negative. Cambridge is currently in the medium range for case counts while flu and RSV cases climb, so being proactive is a must.

For all COVID related city data, click [here](#).

2. Transmitting Communication from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of the FY23 Cultural Investment Portfolio Program Grant from the Massachusetts Cultural Council in the amount of \$15,700 to the Grant Fund Historical Commission Salaries and Wages account (\$13,500) and the Grant Fund Historical Commission Other Ordinary Maintenance account (\$2,000) and to the Grant Fund Historical Commission Travel and Training Account (\$200), which will be used to support part- time archives assistants, as well as for the purchase of general supplies.

CMA 2022 #243

This item was adopted on the consent agenda. No discussion took place.

3. Transmitting Communication from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program grant in the amount of \$972,060.00 funded by the Federal Department of Health and Human Services and administered in Massachusetts by the Commonwealth's Department of Housing and Community Development to the Grant Fund Human Service Programs Salary and Wages account (\$160,888.44), to the Grant Fund Human Service Programs Other Ordinary Maintenance account (\$808,171.56), and to the Grant Fund Human Service Programs Travel and Training account (\$3,000.00), funds will be used to operate the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) serving Cambridge and Somerville.

CMA 2022 #244

This item was adopted on the consent agenda. No discussion took place.

4. Transmitting Communication from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the additional appropriation of the Massachusetts Housing and Shelter Alliance (MHSA) grant funded by the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) in the amount of \$26,000.00 to the Grant Fund Human Service Programs Other Ordinary Maintenance account (\$11,000.00) and to the Grant Fund Human Service Programs Travel and Training account (\$15,000.00), funds will be used for costs related to the Carey Men's Permanent Supported Housing Program operated by the Multi-Service Center.

CMA 2022 #245

This item was adopted on the consent agenda. No discussion took place.

5. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to approval requested for appointments of new members and reappointment's to the Cambridge Library Board of Trustees. ***CMA 2022 #246***

This item was adopted on the consent agenda. No discussion took place.

6. Transmitting Communication from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$4,709,473 from the Water Fund Balance, Retained Earnings (\$2,354,737) and from Free Cash (\$2,354,736), to the Water Fund Other Ordinary Maintenance account (\$3,392,903) and to Water Public Investment Extraordinary Expenditures account (\$1,316,570) to fund the purchase of water from the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA).

CMA 2022 #247

The rules were suspended to bring this item forward with City Manager Agenda Item #7.

This communication asks for the approval of funds to pay for the MWRA water the City used from September – November while the City’s watershed supply was being repaired. During the meeting, we were assured by the Water Department that all drinking water in Cambridge is safe to consume and use, and two new filters were installed with carbon activated monitors, bringing the total amount of filters up to 4. In addition, the City has been able to purchase PFAS testing equipment to keep an even closer eye on our water quality. There was discussion about possibly being able to use our PFAS testing equipment to help other cities who are unable to purchase the equipment on their own. Residents can check for updates on water quality on the [Water Department](#) homepage.

7. Transmitting Communication from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appropriation of \$700,000 from Water Fund Balance (Retained Earnings) account to the Water Public Investment Extraordinary Expenditures account, to fund the purchase of Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substance (PFAS) testing equipment.

CMA 2022 #248

The rules were suspended to bring this item forward with City Manager Agenda Item #6.

8. Transmitting Communication from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to the appropriation in the amount of \$9,812,215.88 from Free Cash to the Public Investment Fund Capital Projects Control Account (\$7,036,323.82); to the Grant Fund Historical Control Account (\$29,909.04); to the Grant Fund Public Celebrations Control Account (\$78,836.02) and to the Grant Fund Police Control Account (\$92,457.00), as well (\$2,574,690) to the Capital Receivables account. This is an accounting transaction adjustment requested by the Massachusetts Department of Revenue (DOR), Division of Local Service) based on a change in their position and will eliminate negative balances which have been included in our annual Free Cash calculation for several years.

CMA 2022 #249

This item was adopted on the consent agenda. No discussion took place.

9. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to changing the name of the City’s Climate Plan Action Committee’s (“CPAC”) to the "Cambridge Climate Committee."

CMA 2022 #250

The Climate Plan Action Committee is currently undergoing strategic planning, which is why this name change was brought about. The new name more accurately reflects the goals of the committee.

This communication was placed on file.

10. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to a Planning Board recommending adoption of the BZA Stipends Zoning Petition, with additional comments. ***CMA 2022 #251***

This communication recommends adopting stipends for members of the BZA. In the report, it is mentioned that members of the board should become “special municipal employees,” which will give them extra protection against conflicts of interest for board members who may hold employment that conflicts with the BZA. I’m happy to see stipends moving forward, as this is an initiative I have championed in an effort to diversify our City’s boards and commissions.

This communication was placed on file.

11. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to a Planning Board report recommending adoption of the Suzanne Blier, et al., Zoning Petition, with additional considerations. ***CMA 2022 #252***

This item was adopted on the consent agenda. No discussion take place.

12. A communication transmitted from Yi-An Huang, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Number 22-79, which requested that the Traffic, Parking, and Transportation Department and Department of Public Works meet with and receive input from residents living on the streets in the impacted area to discuss strategies to mitigate and reduce overflow and cut through traffic, including the proposal mentioned in the order, or other traffic calming or traffic diversion methods, and report back to the Council on any short-term recommendations no later than December 19. ***CMA 2022 #253***

This communication is in response to this [policy order](#) submitted by Councillors Toner, Simmons, and Carlone asking relevant departments to meet with residents in the affected areas surrounding Garden Street to receive input regarding the recent traffic changes. The [report](#) from the Department of Public Works outlines the DPW’s outreach efforts over the duration of the project as well as adjustments they made to Garden Street to answer resident concerns. I raised a question about outreach to the residents who attended the community meetings, and Acting Commissioner Brooke McKenna assured me that timelines would be updated on the DPW project page as well as emailed to attendees. I also asked about improved traffic calming measures such as raised crosswalks at Raymond Street and was assured that the City is actively looking into ways to calm traffic, but many are capital projects, and will take longer to complete.

This communication was placed on file.

II. CALENDAR

CHARTER RIGHT

1. That the City Manager is requested to work with the appropriate departments to conduct street cleaning without towing starting with the 2023 season.

**CHARTER RIGHT EXERCISED BY COUNCILLOR SIMMONS
IN COUNCIL DECEMBER 5, 2022
POR 2022 #312
UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Councillor Simmons presented an amendment by substitution to the original order. Her changes requested a hearing back from the relevant departments by March 31, 2023, as well as other measures. I presented an amendment to the policy order that would change the report back date from March 31 to January 31 so we can hear from our City departments before the next street cleaning season begins in April 2023. There was much discussion about only conducting a pilot for a few months while the City determines the best course of action.

The amendment to change the date in the final ordered paragraph passed 8-1. Councillor McGovern was marked absent.

Councillor Simmons' amendment by substitution failed 1-1-6. Councillor Azeem was marked present and Councillor McGovern was marked absent.

This policy order was adopted as amended 6-1-1. Councillor Simmons was marked present and Councillor McGovern was marked absent.

2. That the Ordinance Committee refer Categories M (Shared Vehicle) and N (Publicly-accessible, Privately-owned Electric Vehicle Charging System) of the Cambridge Transportation Decarbonization and Congestion Mitigation Bill, along with definitions, to the full City Council with a favorable recommendation. Ordinance #2022-13 as Amended
EXPIRED ON SEPTEMBER 27, 2022 POR 2022 #150

No action was taken.

IV. RESOLUTIONS

1. Resolution on the death of Thomas M. Payette

**Councillor Toner
RES 2022 #319**

This resolution was adopted unanimously.

2. Happy 100th Birthday to Mary Ayoub.

**Councillor Toner
RES 2022 #320**

This resolution was adopted unanimously.

3. Resolution on the death of John Barnes.

Councillor Toner

RES 2022 #321

This resolution was adopted unanimously.

4. Resolution on the death of Patrick John Buckley.

Councillor Toner

RES 2022 #322

This resolution was adopted unanimously.

5. Resolution on the death of Sheila Doyle Russell.

Councillor Toner, Mayor Siddiqui, Councillor Simmons, Councillor McGovern

RES 2022 #323

I want to extend my deepest condolences to the family of former Mayor Sheila Doyle Russell, who was dedicated not only to our City, but also our youth throughout both her life and her tenure of service as a City Council member and Mayor.

This resolution was amended to include the entire Council as cosponsors.

This resolution was adopted as amended.

6. Thanks to Mary Chung for her years of serving the Cambridge community from her restaurant, Mary Chung Restaurant.

Mayor Siddiqui

RES 2022 #324

This resolution was adopted unanimously.

7. City Council support for Hildy Martus during a difficult time and appreciation for her years of dedicated service to the animal community.

Councillor McGovern

RES 2022 #325

This resolution was adopted unanimously.

V. POLICY ORDER AND RESOLUTION LIST

1. That City Manager be requested to direct Legal Department and CDD to review the final language of the emissions accounting zoning petition, and make any recommended adjustments, including to the effective date, to the city council prior to ordination

Councillor Zondervan, Councillor McGovern
POR 2022 #314

The rules were suspended to bring this item forward with policy order number 2 and 3 as well as committee report #5.

There was a motion to move this petition to a second reading. That motion passed 7-2.
Councillors Simmons and McGovern were marked absent.

2. That City Manager be requested to direct CDD to work with relevant stakeholders to provide a preliminary estimate of the cost and time burden of compliance with the emissions accounting provision, prior to ordination.

Councillor Zondervan, Councillor McGovern
POR 2022 #315

The rules were suspended to bring this item forward with policy order number 1 and 3 as well as committee report #5.

3. That City Manager be requested to direct CDD to work with relevant stakeholders to inform the design of future regulations associated with accounting for embodied emissions.

Councillor Zondervan, Councillor McGovern
POR 2022 #316

The rules were suspended to bring this item forward with policy order number 1 and 2 as well as committee report #5.

4. That the City Manager is requested to work with relevant City departments to provide an updated tree canopy projection and provide up to date tree data to reflect the effect of the 2022 drought and plans to remedy tree loss as soon as possible.

Councillor Nolan, Councillor Zondervan, Mayor Siddiqui, Councillor Toner
POR 2022 #317

This policy order asks the City Manager to work with the relevant departments to update the tree canopy future projections based on the effects of the 2022 drought. The order also asks for a plan to combat the effects of the drought and tree loss.

This policy order was adopted.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. The Neighborhood and Long Term Planning Committee met on Wednesday, October 19, 2022 to conduct a public meeting to discuss the Cambridge Street Study: Findings and Recommendations Update.

This committee report was accepted and placed on file.

2. The Economic Development and University Relations Committee met on Tuesday, November 22, 2022 to conduct a public meeting to receive an update on the BEUDO amendments from the Community Development Department and a discussion of the environmental and economic impact of BEUDO on residential, business and academic properties/communities.

This committee report was accepted and placed on file.

3. The Human Services and Veterans Committee met on Tuesday, November 29, 2022 to conduct a public meeting to discuss the unhoused population in Cambridge and uptick in substance use in Central Square.

This committee report was accepted and placed on file.

4. The Neighborhood & Long Term Planning, Public Facilities, Arts & Celebrations Committee held a public meeting on Wednesday, November 30, 2022 to receive and update on the latest recommendations from the Alewife Zoning Working

This committee report was accepted and placed on file.

5. A public meeting of the Cambridge City Council's Ordinance Committee was held on Tuesday, December 6, 2022, at 1:00 p.m. to discuss proposed Ordinance #2022-20, Emissions Accounting Zoning.

The Committee voted favorably to send three policy orders to the City Council that appear on this agenda in the Policy Order section.

Further, the Committee voted to send proposed Ordinance #2022-20, Emissions Accounting Zoning as amended, to the Full Council with a favorable recommendation to pass to a second reading.

A. An Ordinance has been received from Diane P. LeBlanc City Clerk, relative to Emissions

Accounting Zoning Petition (Ordinance #2022-20)

ORD 2022 # 20

This committee report was accepted and placed on file.

6. The Ordinance Committee held a public meeting to continue the discussion of Pregnancy Centers, proposed Ordinance #2022-16 on December 6, 2022 @ 3 p.m.

The Committee voted to send proposed Ordinance #2022-16 as amended, Crisis Pregnancy Centers, to the full Council with a favorable recommendation to pass to a second reading

A. An Ordinance has been received from Diane P. LeBlanc City Clerk, relative to Banning Limited Services Pregnancy Centers - Ordinance #2022-16

ORD 2022 # 16

During the Ordinance meeting we reviewed [proposed language](#) from the Law Department to ban limited service pregnancy crisis centers. I am happy to see this petition moving forward to a second reading after my colleagues, Councillor Zondervan, Councillor Nolan, Councillor McGovern, Mayor Siddiqui, and I initially submitted the [policy order](#) requesting this ban in June of this year.

This committee report was accepted and placed on file.

VII. COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS FROM OTHER CITY OFFICERS

1. A communication was received from Mayor Siddiqui, transmitting information from the School Committee.

Mayor Siddiqui
COF 2022 #164

This communication was placed on file.

2. A communication was received from Councillor Nolan and Mayor Siddiqui transmitting a Charter Review Committee Status Update

Councillor Nolan, Mayor Siddiqui
COF 2022 #165

The Charter Review Committee has met a dozen times so far and has recommended drafting new language for the City's Charter. It is important to note that the CRC is not responsible for creating the language, they are solely responsible for reviewing the Charter and assessing the need for changes. The CRC has called upon the Council to spread the word for more public input so they can hear from residents about what they would like to see.

This communication was accepted and placed on file.

3. A communication was received from Diane P. LeBlanc, City Clerk, transmitting an update regarding legislative activity.

COF 2022 #166

This communication was placed on file.